

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Monday, April 19, 2010

Police Station Community Room

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Rob Crowner, Mary Streeter, Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis (arrived 4:51), Carol Gray (arrived 5:07); absent: Harry Brooks.

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:43pm.

2. Minutes of previous meeting: Mary moves, Nonny seconds, and the committee votes 4-0 to approve the April 12 minutes as amended.

3. Evaluation of warrant review: Mary reports that warrant review attendees were generally pleased with the succinctness of the meeting, but uncomfortable with the advocacy on the part of a couple of the presenters. There was a request to produce in advance of the warrant review a map of the places that would be affected by the articles on the warrant. Mary will type up a summary of the evaluations. [Note: Warrant review and bus tour evaluation summaries appended to these minutes by TMCC, 4/23/10.]

4. Evaluation of bus tour: Carol reports that bus tour attendees generally praised the organization and planning of the event. A few were disappointed about timing that prevented some of the projected stops from being made (specifically, not starting on time and taking too long at some stops). Dorwenda suggests asking people to show up at least ten minutes in advance so that the bus can leave right on time. Mary states that the bus tour experience should favor those who actually attend, rather than cater to television recording needs.

Dorwenda reports that new Town Meeting members in particular were excited about seeing the places that were relevant to the warrant, but that side conversations and the practice of repeating questions for the benefit of the recording made it hard to understand some of the responses. Carol suggests reserving a number of seats in the front of the bus for the hard-of-hearing and Mary suggests using a portable microphone to amplify the comments of both speakers and bus riders.

Carol suggests that some stops should be billed in advance as self-guided, with the actual tour making those stops only if there is time. Additionally, the sites could all be filmed separately from the bus tour and during the tour itself only the speakers filmed, with the two recordings edited together later. Carol is planning to return later to the Amherst History Museum with ACTV to finish filming there. Carol suggests that images from the bus tour should be made into a powerpoint with titles, posted online, and shown before each session of Town Meeting as people arrive.

Carol states that as a matter of policy we should be recording history as it happens by taking photographs, including TMCC group photos, of all TMCC events. Peggy notes that newspapers used to fulfill this role.

5. Info forum: Harry reports by cellphone that ACTV is all set to host the informational forum. He will verify that the gas station parking lot can be used for overflow parking and make arrangements for a call-in number for the event. Rob will complete the flier begun by Carol and send it to Mary for posting.

6. Materials for packet: Nonny suggests that the potential for electronic voting be introduced to Town Meeting members as soon as possible. More detailed information can be given later, but the planned demonstration shouldn't come as a surprise. Mary states that there should be TMCC election information and nominating papers in the packet from the Town Clerk, but she does not know for certain that there will be. The committee agrees to submit a single-sheet flier for inclusion in the packet: a forum promotion on

one side and information about TMCC elections, electronic voting, and ways to speed up Town Meeting on the other. Carol, Dorwenda, and Rob will finalize the flier and Rob will send it to the Select Board office before the deadline on Wednesday.

7. Meetings: The committee will meet either Friday, April 23 or Friday April 30 to begin discussing electronic voting, and will invite the Town Moderator to a meeting on Tuesday, May 4. All meetings are tentative, pending confirmation of availability by committee members and guests.

8. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner
Approved April 23, 2010

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of meeting of April 12, 2010